

Rare Book Evaluation and Appraisal

Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America

"How much is my book worth? and other Frequently Asked Questions."

<http://hq.abaa.org/books/antiquarian/abaapages/faqs>

Note: ABAA's annual membership directory (available in paper or online) provides subject and geographic indexes of their members. Allows you to find members who do appraisals throughout the USA.

National Park Service. *Conserve O Grams.* (downloadable PDFs)

19/1 [What makes a Book Rare?](#) 1993

Rare Books and Manuscript Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA)

"Your Old Books"

<http://www.rbms.info/yob.shtml>

1. What makes a book rare?
2. What makes a book important?
3. Does scarcity imply rarity?
4. Are all old books rare?
5. Where are rare books found?
6. What is the difference between a rare book and a second-hand book?
7. What is meant by a book's condition and how does it affect its value?
8. What kinds of books are usually not rare?
9. What is the difference between a first and limited edition?
10. Is a book signed or marked up by a previous owner, or autographed by the author, more valuable?
11. Are old letters, scrapbooks, and documents valuable?
12. Might someone want my single volume to complete a set?
13. How can I keep my books in good condition?
14. Should I have my books rebound before selling them?
15. Do I need to insure my books?
16. How do I describe my books?
17. Do I need to have my books appraised?
18. Where can I find an appraiser?
19. How can I sell my books?
20. How can I be sure that I will get a fair price?
21. Can I sell or give my old books to a library?
22. Who else might accept my old books as a donation?
23. Where can I go for more information on old and rare books, book collecting and evaluating books?

Additional Appraisal Resources

American Book Prices Current, annual issues, 1970-2010. <http://www.bookpricescurrent.com>

American Booksellers Association - directories

<http://www.bookweb.org/infohub/>

American Society of Appraisers lets you search for book appraisers by state.

<http://www.appraisers.org/findappraiser/>

Personal Property

<http://www.appraisers.org/PPHome/PPHome.aspx>

Publications <http://www.appraisers.org/ProductCatalog/ProductCategory.aspx?ID=36>

Antiques Roadshow lists appraisers by subject.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/roadshow/series/appraisers/index.html>

Fine Books and Collections Magazine

<http://www.finebooksmagazine.com/>

Firsts: The Book Collector's Magazine

http://www.firsts.com/index_bak.html

ILAB Directory – The World's Expert Book Dealers

<http://www.pannonbooks.hu/en/ilab-directory-the-worlds-expert-book-dealers-2/>

International Book Collectors Association has tips on book appraisal.

<http://www.rarebooks.org/values.htm>

Johns Hopkins University. The Sheridan Libraries.

“Local & National Appraisers: Mostly MD, PA, DC & VA “

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/collections/gifts/appraisers.html>

Oak Knoll Press catalogs (books about books).

<http://www.oakknoll.com/>

Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (available online or in print)

<http://netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=TAF&WebCode=HomePage>